

user.

REMARKS

The Office Action dated August 24, 2001 has been received and carefully noted. The above amendments to the claims, and the following remarks, are submitted as a full and complete response thereto. By this Amendment, claims 1, 2, 3, 5, and 11 are amended. No new matter is added. In view of the following remarks consideration of claims 1-9 and 11-13 is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-9, and 11-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112 first paragraph because they consisted of a single means claims. Applicants submit that only claims 1-3, 5 and 11 recited a single means plus function clause. In view of the amendments, claims 1-3, 5, and 11 are now presented in an allowable state. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of claims 1-9 and 11-13 in view of the amendments.

Claims 1-9 and 11-13 are rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lett. The Office Action states that Lett discloses all the elements of the present invention except a means for displaying to discriminate a time period based on designation by a user in which a purchased program is present and a time period in which the purchased program is not present. The Office Action further states that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the system of Lett to disclose all the elements of the present invention. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claim 1 is directed towards a program-guide-display controlling apparatus having a means for displaying a plurality of program guides on a display unit in a matrix form by using one of the ordinate and the abscissa as a channel number axis and another one as a time axis. The program-guide-display controlling apparatus also comprises a means for display to discriminate a time period based on designation by a user. Claim 2 recites a program-guide-display controlling apparatus comprising a means for displaying a plurality of program guides on a display unit in a matrix form by using one of the ordinate and the abscissa as a channel number axis and another one as a time axis. The program-guide-display controlling apparatus also comprises a means for displaying to discriminate a time period in which a purchased program is present and a time period in which the purchased program is not present. Claim 3 recites a program-guide-display controlling apparatus

comprising a means for displaying a plurality of program guides on a display unit in a matrix form by using one of the ordinate and the abscissa as a channel number axis and another one as a time axis. The apparatus also comprises a means for displaying in different colors a program guide belonging to a time period in which a purchased program is present and a time period in which the purchased program is not present among program guides displayed on the display unit.

The present invention provides numerous critical and unobvious advantages over the prior art. For example, the program-guide-display controlling apparatus is configured so that it is unlikely for two or more PPV programs which are broadcast during the same time period to be purchased. In addition, the display can provide an indication discriminating between a program that is purchased by subscription and a program designated by the user.

Lett discloses a method and apparatus for providing an interactive electronic programming guide. Specifically, Lett discloses an electronic guide having a schedule of programs including pay-per-view and video-on-demand programs. The user may select programs for watching or recording directly from the program guide. Lett also teaches that the programs may be purchased without entry of event codes, and allows for the purchase of programs for finite periods of time. Furthermore, Lett teaches that the program schedule may be obtained from a data provider that specializes in providing such information.

With respect to claims 1-3 and 11, the Office Action has taken the position that the program-guide-display controlling apparatus is an obvious variation of the apparatus for providing interactive electronic programming guide (EPG) of Lett. Specifically, it appears that the Office Action is broadly interpreting the limitation of "means for displaying to discriminate a time period based on designation by a user" to read on the movement of the cursor to a selected program on the EPG by a user and highlighting that particular selection. More specifically, Lett discloses a system for highlighting a cell designated by a cursor or a cell being a PPV. The cursor highlights the designated cell, and if the cursor moves to one of the other cells, that one is in turn highlighted. In contrast, according to the present invention, an audience can visually recognize the chosen time period. Once the time period is set, the time period continues to be displayed until the setting is changed. Therefore, the system of the invention is different from the system of Lett, which highlights

one cell at a time by cursor movement. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that Lett does not suggest or teach all the elements of present invention. Therefore, the Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of claims 1-9 and 11-13.

With regard to claims 4 and 5, the Office Action notes that Lett fails to show the means for displaying a mark indicating a direction of the channel axis and direction of purchased program purchased program present. However, the Examiner takes Official Notice that such features are well known in the art. Applicants respectfully traverse this reasoning. Pursuant section 2144.03 of the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (MPEP), Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner provide evidence supporting the Official Notice taken by the Office Action by providing references that disclose the deficiencies of Lett.

With regard to claims 6-9, 12 and 13 the Office Action states that Lett discloses all the elements claimed. The Office Action further states that the claimed setting means is equivalent to the actuation of key in a remote control and the claimed discriminatingly displaying means is equivalent to Fig. 6 of Lett. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Lett fails to disclose or suggest the limitation of a discriminatingly displaying means for effecting the display to discriminate the time period set by the user and other time periods. Fig. 6 of Lett illustrates a PPV program displayed in a cell that is highlighted. However, in the present invention, the highlighted cell displays a time period designated by a user, during which the user watches the program. Accordingly, the time period is displayed on a program list to cover a plurality of programs in a plurality of channels. Therefore, Lett does not disclose or suggest this feature of the present invention.

In view of the remarks and the amendments discussed above, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-9 and 11-13.

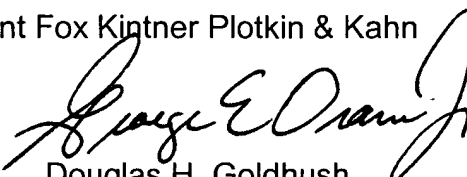
CONCLUSION

In view of the distinctions discussed above, withdrawal of the rejections to claims 1-9 and 11-13 is respectfully requested. Specifically, claims 1, 2, 3, 5, and 11 have been amended to overcome the 35 U.S.C. 112 rejection. Therefore, Applicants submit that the application is now in condition for allowance.

In the event this paper is not considered to be timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The Commissioner is authorized to charge payment for any additional fees which may be required with respect to this paper to Counsel's Deposit Account 01-2300.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosures: Marked-Up Copy of Amended Claims



MARKED-UP CLAIMS

1. (Twice Amended) A program-guide-display controlling apparatus comprising:
means for displaying a plurality of program guides on a display unit in a matrix form by using one of the ordinate and the abscissa as a channel number axis and another one as a time axis, and [comprising:]
means for displaying to discriminate a time period based on designation by a user.

2. (Twice Amended) A program-guide-display controlling apparatus comprising:
means for displaying a plurality of program guides on a display unit in a matrix form by using one of the ordinate and the abscissa as a channel number axis and another one as a time axis, and [comprising:]
means for displaying to discriminate a time period in which a purchased program is present and a time period in which the purchased program is not present.

3. (Twice Amended) A program-guide-display controlling apparatus comprising:
means for displaying a plurality of program guides on a display unit in a matrix form by using one of the ordinate and the abscissa as a channel number axis and another one as a time axis, and [comprising:]
means for displaying in different colors a program guide belonging to a time period in which a purchased program is present and a time period in which the purchased program is not present among program guides displayed on said display unit.

5. (Twice Amended) A program-guide-display controlling apparatus comprising:
means for displaying a plurality of items of program guide information on a display unit in a matrix form by using one of the ordinate and the abscissa as a channel number axis and another one as a time axis, and [comprising:]

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means for displaying a bar if a time period in which a purchased program is present is included in the time period of a program guide displayed on said display unit, said bar being displayed in a region corresponding to said time period in a display region of said display unit.

11. (Amended) A television receiver comprising a program-guide-display controlling apparatus comprising:

means for displaying a plurality of program guides on a display unit in a matrix form by using one of the ordinate and the abscissa as a channel number axis and another one as a time axis, and [said program-guide-display controlling apparatus comprising:]

means for displaying to discriminate a time period based on designation by a user.